

superintending the work, reserves to itself the power of keeping the drawings, and "not employing the architect whose plan is preferred;" which is virtually saying, "We've got another man (probably a carpenter) who will superintend the works for a good deal less than the usual five per cent."

The third, for enlarging the Leicester Union, offers a fair premium enough, but says, that if the architect whose plans are selected should be appointed to superintend the works, "the premium is to merge in a commission upon the outlay, hereafter to be fixed;" which means pretty nearly the same thing as the Wesleyan chapel, as there can be little doubt that a smaller commission than five per cent. will be fixed, and unless the fortunate architect succumbs to it, his drawings will be kept and carried out by somebody else, who will be dirty enough to act in such a way.

With these three specimens before me, I am really puzzled to think what the public generally consider to be the meaning of the word "architect," and whether any previous education is thought necessary to entitle a man to such a name. That architecture is the profession of a gentleman, the first specimen clearly denies; and one would imagine, from reading the other two, that even if it is held to be a profession at all, it must be one with no settled or recognised rules and forms.

I sincerely hope and trust that all your readers who may turn their attention to these competitions, and feel inclined to enter the field with such paltry inducements as are therein held out, will first pause for a moment, and consider whether they will not be doing a lasting injury to the profession by allowing such absurdities to be recognised, and to be responded to by men calling themselves architects and artists. It only affords an additional proof of the necessity of something in the shape of a diploma being required by Government before any one may practise as an architect,—a matter which I see by your Journal is being brought forward, and which I should hope would be strongly supported by all who are anxious that a proper estimate should be formed of the position in society which an architect ought to hold.

"Ours."

REPAIR OF ST. STEPHEN'S, WALBROOK.

Your remarks on St. Stephen's, Walbrook, seem to call for some reply from me, who may fairly claim to be more anxious for its restoration than any man, except, perhaps, the great Christian orator who preaches in this dilapidated but yet beautiful temple. After a six years' battle for the means of its restoration, I, on Wednesday last, as the result of my triumph, laid on its vestry-table a deed assigning to eight trustees, chosen by the parish, a rent-roll of upwards of 700*l.* a-year, and about 2,500*l.* present cash, accumulated during my struggle.

The tardy movements in Chancery, and the obstacles to justice in that atrocious court,* may yet occasion a month or two's delay; but I have confident hope that this short time will put at the disposal of a committee a thousand pounds, which I think is sufficient to stay decay, to restore all the original ornament, and to put the fabric in at least a respectable temporary state of repair.

I am of course very anxious that this little sum be applied to the greatest possible advantage, and request the favour of advice from any of Wren's admirers, and especially replies to the following queries:—

Is it desirable to restore the centre eastern window, and remove West's picture to the northern side, which has been proposed?

In what manner should the interior be coloured? If, as I presume, of one colour, what colour would be the best?

Wm. F. Rock.

Walbrook, Nov. 28.

THE BRITANNIA-BRIDGES.—The second tube has been safely floated into its position ready for hoisting.

* Would that the whole kingdom would about the same expression,—"In at atrocious court,"—we might hope them for some reformation of its monstrous abuses.—Ed.

BATHS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.

MANY years ago, eminent physicians endeavoured to draw the attention of the Government to the importance of public baths, and of countervailing their use by every aid and example. It was but lately that the first public baths were erected, and now we are aware of their benefits. In the eastern and northern nations their prevalence is universal, and we may lament that even now they are so little used in this country. I hardly know any act of benevolence more essential to the comfort of the community than that of establishing, by public benefaction, baths for the poor to all our cities and manufacturing towns. Dr. Clarke tells us, that in England baths are considered only as articles of luxury; yet, throughout the vast empire of Russia, through all Finland, Lapland, Sweden, and Norway, there is no cottage so poor, no hut so destitute, but it possesses its vapour bath, in which all its inhabitants every Saturday at least, and every day in cases of sickness, experience comfort and salubrity. The illustrious Bacon lamented the disuse of baths among us; we have certainly since then made rapid strides, but there yet remains great room for improvement. Among the ancients baths were public edifices, under the immediate inspection of the Government. Rome, under her emperors, had nearly a thousand such buildings, and they were then considered as institutions which owed their origin to absolute necessity, as well as to decency and cleanliness. England, by its ancient remains, even now bears testimony to what importance the Romans considered, for the preservation of health, the use of bathing. It is true with us now, the first-rate buildings generally have attached to them a private bath; but the use of them among the middle class is not so general as might be. In America a bath-room is a part of every modern dwelling, and no one will occupy a house without one,—the bath itself being provided with hot water from a peculiar and ingenious kind of cooking stove, somewhat like those used in the houses of our nobility, but on a more economical plan. In the suburban districts of London, the houses generally erected have not these conveniences supplied, but it is owing to the bad management of the speculating builders—it is a moral duty they owe to all, to supply these deficiencies. Builders themselves must bear in mind, that during the progress of the building, a bath-room might be built at half the cost, when the materials and labour are there on the spot; and, that after a house is finished, few are willing to incur such an additional trouble and expense. If cement were less used for external effect, which even in the hands of a skilful architect is rarely treated successfully, that additional expense would be saved, and the conveniences internally might be more generally attended to; and the saving in this respect might be employed for the erection of a bath-room.

W. P.

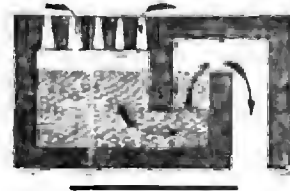
ST. JUDE'S CHURCH, POYNTZ POOL, BRISTOL.

THE new church dedicated to St. Jude, which we briefly mentioned some time since, was consecrated a few days ago. It was erected from the designs of Mr. Gabriel, architect, and is in the Decorated or Middle Pointed style of the fourteenth century (Edward II.), consisting of nave, 65 feet, by 28 feet 6 inches; and chancel, 28 feet 6 inches, by 23 feet 6 inches; with sacristy on the north side of the chancel. The tower is at the west end, 13 feet square within, 82 feet in height, and consists of four stages, having a deeply-recessed doorway; above this is a three-light window. The belfry story has four two-light windows, and is surrounded by a parapet of wavy and quatrefoil tracery, having a pinnacle at each angle, with buttresses set diagonally. The nave has a south doorway; there is also a priest's door in the south wall of the chancel. The whole of the windows, except the east and west, are of two lights, and each of different tracery. The east window consists of five lights. The whole of the seats are open. The lectern is of oak; the pulpit, which is on the north side of the nave, is of stone. The upper part of the tower arch is open, with a door

beneath; the lower story of the tower forms an entrance vestibule to the body of the church. The roof of the nave is open to rafters, and the principals rest on stone corbels, carved with foliage. The chancel arch is crossed by a screen of oak. On each side of the chancel is a row of four stalls; further eastward to south are sedilia and piscina; and in the thickness of north wall the table of prothesis is introduced. The chancel is vaulted over with wood,—the two easternmost bays being coloured, the square compartments blue powdered with stars, the moulded ribs diapered with bosses gilt. The floors are laid with tiles; the doors are of oak. The walls are built of Hanham stone, with freestone coverings; the roof is covered with stone slabs (from Tetbury).

LOWE'S STENCH TRAP GRID.

THE advertisement of this trap, on another page, deserves the attention of our readers. It has the great advantage over the ordinary bell trap, that the grating may be raised to allow a more rapid passage through it without, of necessity, an escape of bad air. The only fault we have to find with our otherwise good little housemaid is, that the bell trap in the sink is universally left out and the house poisoned; and in saying this we express the complaint of hundreds. The annexed section will explain the construction of Mr. Lowe's trap.



JENNINGS'S INDIA-RUBBER TUBE CLOSETS.

We have been often asked by correspondents to give our opinion of Jennings's patent water-closet, but were then not in a position to do so confidently. For some time past, however, we have had one in operation, and we feel it is but justice to the inventor to say that it answers its purpose very efficiently. The peculiarity of it is (as many of our readers may have observed in our advertising columns), that the communication between the pan and the trap is by means of a short length of India-rubber tube, which, when the handle is down, is compressed by two metal flaps, and so holds the water. Having neither the usual metal pan nor valve, no chamber is required, which prevents a displacement of impure air when used, so evil justly complained of in some other closets. The raising of the handle suddenly discharges the contents of the basin with all its force through the India-rubber pipe direct, flushing the trap and soil-pipe each time the closet is used. Further, this closet in its action is perfectly silent, as the metal flaps fall without noise against the India-rubber tube, and it is so free from complication, that a fresh piece of India-rubber tube, if ever needed, will make the closet as good as new.

Mr. Jennings has very ingeniously applied India-rubber in the manufacture of cocks, and for the joints of pipes. India-rubber and gutta percha are quietly revolutionising many branches of our manufactures.

The shop-shutter shoe and fastener, by the same patentee, has been noticed by us before, and is now coming into very general use.

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.—According to the last report of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, printed a few days back, it appears that the amount of purchase-money paid by them for property required for the metropolitan improvements is 727,968*l.*, comprising the various items,—in the line from Oxford-street to Holborn, 290,327*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*; in the line from Bow-street to Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury, 96,408*l.* 11*s.*; in the line from London Docks to Spitalfields Church, 139,341*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*; in the line from East Smithfield to Rosemary-lane, 23,471*l.* 15*s.*; making the sum already stated.